



*California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control*



Environmental Oversight Agreements School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Division

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for overseeing the environmental assessment, investigation and cleanup of proposed and expanding school properties. As set forth in the California Education Code, Section 17213.1, the Environmental Oversight Agreement (EOA) authorizes DTSC to guide and oversee school districts through the preparation of a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the proposed/expansion school sites. The EOA is an agreement, not an enforcement order. It provides a mechanism for the school districts to perform a PEA under the oversight of DTSC. The PEA will determine if there has been a release or if there is a potential for release of hazardous material, which could pose a threat to public health or the environment. After reviewing the PEA, DTSC will issue a determination of either "No Further Action" or "Further Action."

Project Eligibility

DTSC is required by law to be involved in the environmental review process for proposed acquisition or expansion of school properties that will utilize state funding. However, non-state funded schools can request DTSC assistance in conducting environmental assessment. For more information on the environmental review process, please see the Schools Program Fact Sheets [#1 New Environmental Requirements for Proposed School Sites \(AB 387 and SB 162\)](#) and [#3 Update on School Site Environmental Review Process \(AB 972\)](#).

EOA Application and Processing

The first step for school districts is to complete and submit the [Environmental Oversight Agreement Application](#), along with appropriate background information on the site, to DTSC for processing. Background information consists of a Phase I Environmental Assessment or other relevant documents. At a minimum, the information submitted with the application should include a location map, such as a street or topographic map, and a site diagram depicting the current development (e.g., structures, land uses).

DTSC will prepare the [Environmental Oversight Agreement](#) within 15 days of receipt of the application and submit the EOA to the school district. The school district reviews site-specific information to ensure accuracy, signs both originals and returns them to DTSC for execution. Upon execution, DTSC will return a fully executed original to the school district and

will assign a project manager as the technical contact to guide them through the PEA process. The project manager will contact the district to schedule a scoping meeting with the district's representative and environmental consultant.

Services

DTSC oversight included as part of the PEA process:

- project scoping and consultation regarding site investigation;
- work plan review;
- PEA review;
- risk assessment; and
- public participation support.

Cost Estimate and Cost Recovery

The EOA contains a cost estimate for DTSC oversight, calculated using hourly rates for DTSC staff based on classification (e.g., Project Manager, Toxicologist, Geologist, etc.). One half of the cost estimate is due within ten days of receipt of the executed Agreement. The proponent is billed quarterly for the remainder of the project costs.

For More Information

To learn more about DTSC's school investigation and cleanup activities or to initiate an EOA with DTSC for oversight of a PEA, please contact Robbie Morris of the School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Division at (818) 551-2941 in DTSC's Glendale office located at 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201 or at rmorris@dtsc.ca.gov.